

Robert Berton Cooley (1875-1962) and Carrie Louella Miller (1883-1973)

The Cooley antecedents of the 11th generation author, Daniel Berton Cooley b. 1939 are: Clifford Coyne[10], Robert Berton[9], Robert Reed[8], Andrew[7], Noah[6], Benjamin[5], Benjamin[4], Benjamin[3], Daniel[2], and Ensign Benjamin[1]. This biography is about Robert Berton Cooley (10th generation after first generation immigrant, Ensign Benjamin Cooley) and his wife, Carrie Louella Miller.

The twins Robert Berton Cooley and Herbert Merton Cooley¹ were born 15 Oct 1875 in McGregor, Clayton County, Iowa.² Robert was married 3 Jan 1903 in Plainview, Pierce County, Nebraska,³ to Carrie Louella Miller who was born 27 May 1883⁴ near Beaman, Grundy County, Iowa.⁵ He died 12 Dec 1962 in Akron, Washington County, Colorado,⁶ bur. in Otis, Washington County, Colorado.⁷ She died 10 Aug 1973 in Akron, Washington County, Colorado,⁸ bur. in Otis, Washington County, Colorado.⁹

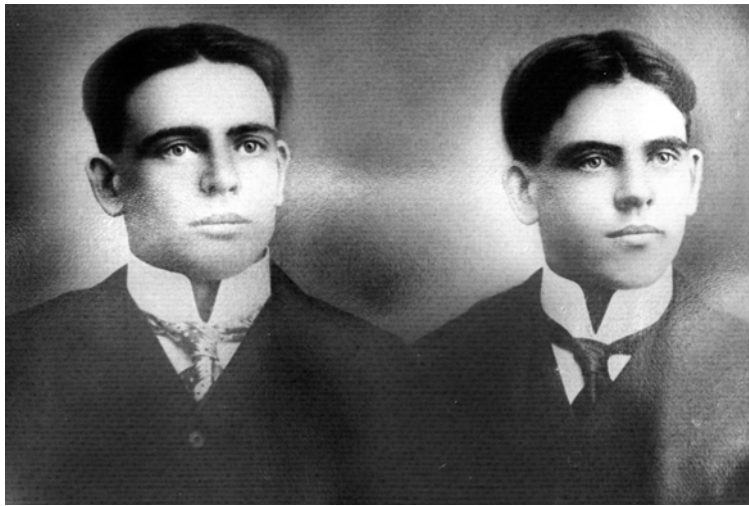


Fig. 1 Merton and Berton about 1895



Fig. 2 Carrie Louella Miller

Children of Robert Berton Cooley and Carrie Louella Miller

- i. **Orville Dale** b. 5 Apr 1903 nr Plainview, Pierce Co, Nebraska;¹⁰ m. 12 Jul 1926 in Otis, Washington Co, Colorado¹¹ to **Alice Mildred Skinner** b. 26 Mar 1905 in Clarence, Shelby Co, Missouri;¹² d. 28 Oct 1996 in Riverside, Riverside Co, California,¹³ bur. 1 Nov 1996 in Pershing Memorial Cem, Limon, Lincoln Co, Colorado.¹⁴ He d. 12 May 1994 in Riverside, Riverside Co, California,¹⁵ bur. 17 May 1994 in Pershing Memorial Cem, Limon, Lincoln Co, Colorado.¹⁶
- ii. **Carlyle Berton**¹⁷ b. 18 May 1905 nr Plainview, Pierce Co, Nebraska; m. never married; d. 10 May 1909 nr Plainview, Pierce Co, Nebraska ae 3yr-11mo-23d; bur. Pleasant View Cem, Pierce Co, Nebraska.¹⁸
- iii. **Leo**¹⁹ b. 17 Feb 1907 nr Savage (Royal), Antelope Co, Nebraska; m. never married; d. 3 Mar 1907 nr Savage (Royal), Antelope Co, Nebraska aged 15 days; bur. unknown probably Antelope Co, Nebraska.
- iv. **Clifford Coyne** b. 15 Jul 1912 in Otis, Washington Co, Colorado;²⁰ m. 21 Jun 1936 in Akron, Washington Co, Colorado²¹ to **Margaret May Sears** b. 23 May 1912 in Akron, Washington County, Colorado;²² d. 18 Jan 1987 in Akron, Washington County, Colorado;²³ bur. Akron Cemetery, Washington County, Colorado.²⁴ He d. 5 Dec 1979 in Akron, Washington County, Colorado;²⁵ bur. Akron Cemetery, Washington County, Colorado.²⁶

v. **Robert Miller** b. 20 Sep 1914 in Otis, Washington Co, Colorado;²⁷ m. 28 Jun 1937 in Melba, Canyon Co, Idaho²⁸ to **Eleanor Newcomb** b. 30 Nov 1915 in Melba, Canyon Co, Idaho;²⁹ d. 13 Jul 2008 in Cañon City, Fremont Co, Colorado;³⁰ bur. Cloverdale Memorial Park, Boise, Ada Co, Idaho;³¹ he d. 4 Nov 1992 in Rawlins, Carbon Co, Wyoming;³² bur. Cloverdale Memorial Park, Boise, Ada Co, Idaho.³³

vi. **Daughter Cooley**³⁴ b. 23 Jan 1921 in Otis, Washington Co, Colorado; d. 23 Jan 1921 in Otis, Washington Co, Colorado; bur. Otis Cemetery, Washington County, Colorado.

Since Herbert Merton Cooley's and Elizabeth Holliday's children were adopted at an early age by his twin brother Robert Berton and his wife Carrie Louella Miller, their data are included here.

Herbert Merton Cooley was born 15 Oct 1875 in McGregor, Clayton County, Iowa,³⁵ m. 26 Apr 1905 at Holliday Farm, Knox Co, Nebraska³⁶ to **Jane Elizabeth Holliday**³⁷ b. 20 Mar 1884 Hallfield Estate, Castle Sowerby, Cumberland, England;³⁸ d. 1 Jan 1908 in Crofton, Knox Co, Nebraska,³⁹ bur. Pleasant View Cem, Pierce Co, Nebraska;⁴⁰ he d. 4 Nov 1914 near Yankton County, South Dakota by drowning in the Missouri River, body never recovered.⁴¹



Fig. 3 Herbert Merton Cooley and Jane Elizabeth Holliday

Children of Herbert Merton Cooley and Jane Elizabeth Holliday

i. **Ronald Delos Cooley** b. 28 Jan 1906 in Crofton, Knox Co, Nebraska,⁴² m. 20 Sep 1935 in Denver, Denver Co, Colorado⁴³ to Irene Elva Skinner b. 29 Jul 1907 in Anabel, Macon Co, Missouri,⁴⁴ d. 6 Dec 1990 in Hugo, Lincoln Co, Colorado,⁴⁵ bur. Pershing Memorial Cemetery, Limon, Lincoln Co, Colorado.⁴⁶ He d. 11 Jun 1980 in Denver, Denver Co, Colorado,⁴⁷ bur. 15 Jun 1980 at Pershing Memorial Cemetery, Limon, Lincoln Co, Colorado.⁴⁸

ii. **Merton Beth Cooley** b. 7 Dec 1907 In Crofton, Knox Co, Nebraska;⁴⁹ m. 20 May 1929 in Golden, Jefferson Co, Colorado,⁵⁰ Viola Myfanwy Kyffin b. 20 Jan 1908 in Denver, Denver Co, Colorado,⁵¹ d. 1 May 1995 in Brush, Ft Morgan Co, Colorado,⁵² bur. Akron Cemetery, Washington Co, Colorado.⁵³ He d. 3 Nov 1992 in Sterling, Logan Co Colorado;⁵⁴ bur. 6 Nov 1992 in Akron Cemetery, Washington Co, Colorado.⁵⁵

Robert Berton Cooley (15 Oct 1875 - 12 Dec 1962)

Robert Berton Cooley (Bert) and his twin brother, Herbert Merton (Mert), were born 15 Oct 1875 to Robert Reed Cooley (1840-1917) and Stella Alfresine Owen (1850-1920) in McGregor, Clayton County, Iowa "right on the banks of the Mississippi River" as my Grandpa Bert Cooley said. The twins grew up in the McGregor area.

Migration to Nebraska

Some time before 1894⁵⁶ the Robert Reed Cooley family comprising Robert Sr., Stella, Bert, and Mert migrated to Pierce County, Nebraska, where they settled in Plainview.

In another, relevant migration, Samuel Jasper Miller, his wife Mary Ellen Nickerson and their eight children came from Iowa to Plainview, Pierce County before 1896⁵⁷. Among those eight Miller children was Carrie Louella Miller (b. 27 May 1883 in Beaman, Grundy County, Iowa) future wife of Robert Berton Cooley.



Fig. 4 Carrie Louella Miller and Robert Berton Cooley

Bert and Carrie Louella (Lou) were married 3 Jan 1903 in Plainview and later in that same year their first child, Orville Dale, was born. Two other children were born in Plainview: Carlyle Berton (b. 1905) and Leo (b. 1907), but neither survived childhood. After 1907 they moved to McLean, Pierce County, Nebraska⁵⁸ where both taught school. McLean is about 18 miles east of Plainview.

When Bert's twin brother's wife Jane Elizabeth Holliday died 1 Jan 1908 their two children, Ronald Delos, and Merton Beth, were taken in by Bert and Lou and eventually adopted by them.



Fig 5. Brothers Carlyle Berton and Orville Dale and Cousin Merton Beth.
Date of picture approx late 1908.

Migration to Colorado

In late 1909⁵⁹ the Robert Reed Cooley family consisting of Robert Reed himself, his wife Stella Owen, son Glenn Syren, and grandchild Ronald Delos together with the Robert Berton Cooley family consisting of R.B., his wife C.L. Miller, first child Dale, and nephew Merton Beth, migrated to Kit Carson County Colorado. Robert Reed Cooley purchased a relinquishment (land that someone else had abandoned) just at the west edge of Flagler and Robert Berton Cooley purchased 158 acres about four miles west and five miles north of Flagler.

About the same time, the Samuel Jasper Miller family also migrated to Colorado. All of the Miller children, with the exception of eldest son Odes Bert and Carrie Louella—wife of R.B. Cooley who migrated with the Cooleys—came to the Arickaree-Anton area of Washington County (adjacent northwest of Kit Carson County) where all filed their homestead⁶⁰ intentions.

The R.B. Cooley family, according to nephew Beth Cooley, "...was on a homestead nine miles northwest of Flagler and we had [five] years to prove up the claim". Dale Cooley explains: "When we went to the homestead there was a sod house already there [left by earlier squatters]. It was a one-room affair with a cow-chip-burning stove in one end and a bed in the other".

Bert began his career in Colorado as a teacher, earning \$40 per month at the Huntley school about seven miles due north of Flagler⁶¹ while Lou taught at the Van Patten school at \$35 per month (early sexist compensation).

In 1910, when school was out for the summer, Bert joined his father-in-law Samuel Jasper Miller's threshing crew in which he was selected to run the steam-powered traction engine (see picture below). Since the crops near Flagler had failed in 1910, Samuel had decided to head north where the crops had fared better.

Beginnings of the Otis Colorado newspaper

One day Bert was working about 30 miles north of Flagler near the tiny town of Otis, Washington County, Colorado, where he observed the town did not have a newspaper. That fall Bert began planning for a newspaper in Otis (his twin brother Merton had already acquired a newspaper in Crofton Nebraska four years earlier).

Beth continues, "The big reason [for starting a newspaper] was that almost all of the settlers were homesteading and the law required that anyone who "proved up" on a homestead had to make a publication in a newspaper in the area. These publications [notices] were published for a period of six weeks and the homesteader had to pay a publication fee of \$5.⁶²



Fig. 6 Samuel Jasper Miller's steam-powered threshing machine

"Bert was fortunate enough to find an empty, one-and-a-half-story building on the main street of Otis (current Washington Avenue) that was located on the east side of the street just south of the yard part of the Akron-Otis Lumber Company. The front two-thirds of the building was used as a printing office and the rear third was partitioned off as bedrooms. There was a small second story that also contained two bedrooms. At the back of the building was a sort of lean-to shack about 15 feet square which was used as a kitchen and dining area. "In order to get into the upstairs apartment [to get to the other bedrooms] it was necessary to go outside, climb a flight of steps and then walk on two, two-by-eight planks laid across the semi-flat roof of the lean-to.



Fig. 7 R.B.. Cooley's first home/business in Otis Colorado

"[Our biggest] concern was water for domestic use. There was no municipal water system and those who lived in town had cisterns which were kept full by a man named Fred Bowen who owned a wooden tank on a wagon. It had a hand pump on it and he would deliver you a supply of water for 50 cents".

The *Otis Independent*

"Dad started in the newspaper business from scratch", remembered his son, Coyne Cooley: "He started the *Independent* on a \$250 loan [from his brother-in-law, Odes Bert Miller of Iowa]...that was in 1911, and I was born the next year. We had quarters above the newspaper office, so that's what you call being born into the business".

"He bought some used equipment and hired a jack-leg⁶³ printer to start the paper in Otis just to print legals^a", said Beth. The first edition (v1#1) of the *Otis Independent* was published on 5 Jan 1911.⁶⁴

At that time there were fewer than 100 people living in Otis. The newspaper consisted of four pages, the front and back was "home print", that is, the type was set in the shop in Otis and printed there. The two inside pages were called "patent" which were supplied by the Western Newspaper Union (Kansas City, 1890-1982).

During the early years of the newspaper in Otis, the RB Cooley Flagler property was occupied by Lou, Dale, and Beth during the winter months. They were putting in the time necessary to prove up on the homestead. Lou taught school, Dale went with her, and Beth was "farmed out" to a neighbor lady (a babysitter).

Dale states, "[We] traveled in an open buggy drawn by a single mare who sometimes engaged in the capricious practice known as "balking"...a situation where the horse refuses to move when asked to do so. It is very exasperating".

^a The notice of intent to occupy required by the Homestead Act of 1862. "Legals" (notices) were printed in a Want Ad section of the newspaper

Bert's twin brother Mert dies in accident

In March of 1913 the Cooleys proved up their Flagler claim then moved to Otis for good. Tragically, a year later (November 1914) Herbert Merton, R.B.'s twin brother, was drowned in an automobile accident on the Yankton (South Dakota) Pontoon Bridge over the Missouri River. With the untimely death of his brother, Bert sold the *Otis Independent*, left Otis and moved to Crofton, Nebraska where he continued the operation of Merton's newspaper, the *Crofton Journal*.

As time went on, Bert began to have problems with hay fever (severe allergies) in that northeast corner of Nebraska near the Missouri River. With the climate adversely affecting him he disposed of the *Crofton Journal* in 1916 and the family returned to Otis arriving on Election Day^b, Nov 14, 1916.⁶⁵

Back to the Otis Independent

Bert re-acquired the *Independent* and resumed operation of the newspaper he had founded. As it turned out, the two-years (1915 and 1916) Bert had spent in Crofton was the only time the Cooley family was not involved in a Northeastern Colorado newspaper until the 1970s.

At some point after their return from Nebraska, Dale relates that the newspaper office in Otis was moved "to a make-shift shop--adjoining William Whiterhurst's store on the north--[which] had been used as a place to grind and mix feed". At this new location Bert bought a typesetting machine that "was better than doing it by hand, but not much".

About a year later a clothing store located in the old grocery store adjoining the *Independent* office on the south caught fire and was destroyed (no date given). "The newspaper was saved by the fact that the north wall of the store [and south wall of the newspaper office] was of solid concrete and the fire failed to penetrate".

Not long after that the chance arose to obtain a building that had been built out as a drugstore for Justin Hay on the east side of the street across from *the hotel*.⁶⁶ Shortly, the shop was moved there, the third location for the *Otis Independent* since R.B. Cooley started the newspaper.

Dale relates, "In 1917 we built our new house in Otis and we took the high school principal as a roomer. I was 22 years of age and just out of the University of Denver."⁶⁷

A short stay in Monte Vista Colorado

With the assistance of his wife, sons, and nephews, R.B. Cooley continued to operate the Otis newspaper until 1928 when he traded the paper to J.S. Tohill for the *Monte Vista Tribune*. Tohill came to Otis to operate the *Independent* but soon sold it to John W. Graves who operated the newspaper from 1929 to his death on 22 Feb 1982. Graves was closely associated with the Cooleys for over 50 years.

Meanwhile, Bert assumed operation of the *Tribune* in Monte Vista but a few months later a better opportunity arose in Akron Colo., county seat of Washington County, whose economy was bustling in the prosperity of the pre-depression years.

The Akron News-Reporter

Bert sold the *Monte Vista Tribune* and came to Akron in February of 1929 with his wife Lou, three sons, Dale, Coyne, and Bob, and two nephews, Ronald and Beth.

Akron was a little railroad town and farming community of about 1200 residents. At the time it boasted two newspapers, the *Akron Semi-weekly News* and the *Akron Reporter*. Bert purchased both newspapers that were

^b Woodrow Wilson (D) vs. Charles Evans Hughes (R). Wilson took both the US and Colorado

quickly consolidated resulting in the single newspaper, the *Akron News-Reporter*⁶⁸ the first edition of which was published March 7, 1929.

This inaugural edition reported details of a coroner's inquest into death of an Akron man and his son in a train accident, a fire at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Akron, and carried a front page picture of the inauguration of President Calvin Coolidge and Vice President Charles G. Dawes.



Fig. 8 L to R, Bert, Ronald, Beth seated at the Linotype, and Lou standing

The picture in Figure 8 was probably taken in the early 1930s not long after the *Akron News-Reporter* published its first issue in 1929. Seen on the left side of the picture just behind Bert's right is the Lee handfed, flatbed press on which the ANR was published for a few years. Eventually a Miehle ('mee-lee) flatbed press was acquired which would be located about where Ronald is standing. Also there was a Chandler & Price handfed job press to Lou's right.

Dale and Ronald sent to Limon Colorado, Bob moves to Idaho

Since having five sons working on a small weekly newspaper was overkill, in 1937 Bert purchased the *Eastern Colorado Leader* in Limon, Lincoln County, Colorado and Dale and Ronald were sent down there to assume its operation. Soon they acquired the *Genoa Sentinel*, the two papers were consolidated, and the *Limon Leader* was born.



Fig. 9 Beth, Dale, Bert, Bob, Lou, Coyne, and Ronald about 1955

Youngest son, Bob exited the *Akron News-Reporter* in 1943 and moved with his son Richard and wife Eleanor Newcomb to her hometown, Mountain Home, Idaho, where he started the *Mountain Home News*. It wasn't long before Bob began to feel the ill-effects of arthritis that made it difficult for him to operate a Linotype, so the family moved down to the drier climate of Arizona. There he eventually became a Professor of Journalism at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff in 1976.

In 1972 the *Limon Leader* was sold and Dale and Ronald went into retirement. Seven years later the *Akron News-Reporter* was sold which marked the end of the Cooley family newspaper dynasty "since none of the children was interested in getting into the business", Coyne said. That was mostly true until Jim, son of Ronald, took over the *Oxford (Nebraska) News* and is still publishing the newspaper in 2013.



Fig. 10 Bert and Lou at a Colorado Press Association meeting in Denver about 1960

Robert Cooley's life comes to an end

After a brief illness, Robert Berton Cooley died in the Washington County Hospital in Akron on 12 Dec 1962 aged 87. He was buried in the Otis Cemetery.⁶⁹

His wife, Carrie Louella Miller died in the Nursing Wing of Washington County Hospital 10 Aug 1973 aged 90. She was buried beside her husband in the same cemetery.⁷⁰



Fig. 11 Carrie Louella Cooley and Robert Berton Cooley gravestones in the Otis Cemetery

Carrie Louella Miller (27 May 1883 – 10 Aug 1973)

Carrie Louella Miller was born 27 May 1883 in Beaman,⁷¹ Grundy County, Iowa, the daughter of Samuel Jasper Miller and Mary Ellen Nickerson [Endnotes 4,5]. Carrie was the fifth of nine children: (i) Child (1874-1874), (ii) Odes Bert (1875-1943), (iii) Frank Greene (1878-1958), (iv) Walter Vivian (1880-1961), (v) Carrie Louella (1883-1973), (vi) Elvira Ann (1885-1912), (vii) Emma Frances (1889-1945), (viii) Robert Nickerson (1893-1958), (ix) Letta May (1896-1986).⁷²



Fig. A Samuel Jasper Miller-Mary Ellen Nickerson family about 1910

Some time before 1896⁷³ Samuel Miller moved from Calhoun County, Iowa to Pierce County, Nebraska. Coincidentally, Robert Reed Cooley (whose son, Robert Berton would become the husband of Carrie in 1903) migrated from Clayton County, Iowa to Pierce County, Nebraska before 1894⁷⁴

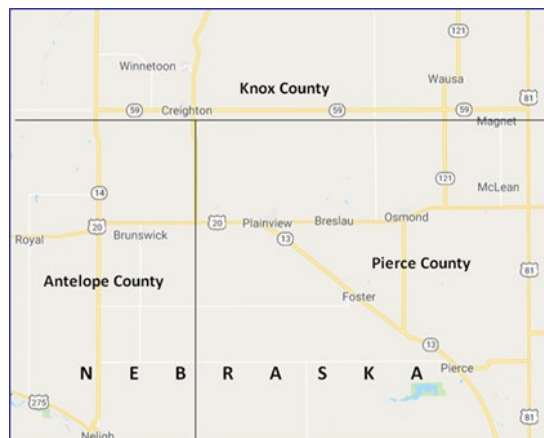


Fig. B Key Miller/Cooley towns in Nebraska

Carrie, better known by her nickname, "Lou", was married to Robert Berton Cooley in Pierce County, Nebraska on 2 Jan 1903. Later that year, their first child, Orville Dale, arrived. Sadly, tragedy was to follow with their next two children. Carlyle Berton, "Lyle", was born 18 May 1905 near Plainview but died in childhood on 10 May 1909. Leo Cooley was born 17 Feb 1907 but survived only 14 days to 3 Mar 1907. The young couple didn't attempt to have more children until 1912 [See endnotes for R.B. Cooley].

Migration to Colorado

In 1910, three families in northeastern Nebraska immigrated to the high plains of northeastern Colorado: The Robert Berton Cooley family comprising Bert, Lou, Dale, and nephew Merton Beth took up a homestead four miles west and five miles north of Flagler in Kit Carson County. The Robert Reed Cooley family consisting of R.R., Stella, his wife, and grandnephew Ronald Cooley bought a relinquishment just west of Flagler. The Samuel Jasper Miller family comprising S.J., wife Mary Ellen, and six children, homesteaded in Washington County near Arickaree about 30 miles north of Flagler.⁷⁵



Fig. C Samuel Jasper Miller's sod house near Anton Colorado (about 1912)

In order to fulfill the requirements of the Homestead Act of 1862, individual properties were required to be occupied for at least half a year per year for five years during which improvements had to have been made. Then the title could be transferred from the Government to the homesteader.

Dale Cooley writes, "When we went to the homestead, there was a sod house already there [similar to SJ Miller's "soddy" shown above]. It was a one-room affair with a cow-chip-burning stove in one end and a bed in the other."⁷⁶ Bert began teaching, earning \$40 per month at the Huntley school about seven miles due north of Flagler while Lou taught at the Van Patten school at \$35 per month".

Dale continues, "In the summer of 1910 when school was out, Bert joined [Dale's] Grandpa S.J. Miller's threshing crew to run the engine. Since the crops near Flagler had failed in 1910, Grandpa Miller had decided to head north where the crops fared better that year. One day Bert was operating Grandpa Miller's threshing machine (See Figure 6 above) about 30 miles north of Flagler near Otis, Colo., when he observed the town didn't have a newspaper. That fall Bert began planning for a newspaper in Otis".

Bert and family took up residence in Otis and the *Otis Independent* was born with its first issue published on Jan 5, 1911. Nevertheless, the Homestead Act requirements remained the same so Lou, Dale, and Beth still lived out on the prairie at least six months of each year until 1913 when the property was proved up.

Life on the Colorado prairie was not a bed of roses for the kids and mom, who continued teaching. Beth had to be "farmed out" (taken to a babysitter) every morning and Dale accompanied his mom to school. Quoting the Dale Cooley paper⁷⁷

One day we came home and my mother was about to lay Beth on the bed when she heard the warning, characteristic "w-h-r-r-r" of the rattlesnake. She leaped backwards, went to the stove and got the poker with which she made short work of the rattler. How it got to into the house and under the bed, we never knew. Of course, it was an old soddy and so we just had to think that in had been up in the roof area and had fallen down [inside].

Another day, my mother went to the barn to get the mare "Bess" out to hitch up to go to town when she again got the "message" from a rattlesnake. This one was near the feedbox in the barn. She came to the house, got the "hog-laig"^c (hand gun) and went back out and, with a couple of well-placed shots, got rid of that threat. She was an excellent shot with a revolver because she had practiced a lot.

Upon another occasion we were coming home from school one evening and she saw a hawk on a fence post. She stopped the horse, got out the trusty .32 and knocked the hawk off the post. She had to admire her own marksmanship so she went up to examine the bird. When she got to it and was reaching down to pick it up the hawk, in its death throes, drove its filthy claws into her leg just above the ankle. She bled very freely and when we got home she got out the old reliable turpentine and Epsom salts and gave herself the treatment. She was afraid of what she called "blood-poisoning" and what we know today as tetanus.

Lou Miller-Cooley was a Worthy Matron (presiding officer) of the Order of the Eastern Star.⁷⁸ She received a pin for 50 year membership in the organization in July 1966. In 1967 she became a life member of the Martha Washington Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. She was also an active member of the Akron Fortnightly Club, serving as president for one term.⁷⁹



Carrie Louella Miller and Robert Berton Cooley ca 1955

Carrie Louella Miller Cooley died 10 Aug 1973 aged 90 after being a patient almost four years in the nursing wing of Washington County Hospital in Akron Colo. She was buried alongside her husband Robert Berton Cooley in the Otis Colorado Cemetery (see gravestone pictures Fig. 11 above).

^c **Hogleg** - A large heavy caliber handgun originally used to refer to a Colt Walker or similar sized revolver. Still in use today when referring to a big bore, long-barreled handgun , typically a single action revolver



Gravestones in Otis Cemetery, Washington County, Colorado

Endnotes

- ¹ Iowa State Census Collection, 1836-1925 (Twins Berton Cooley)
- ² World War II Draft Registration Card Serial nr 373; Order nr A397; Date of Registration Sept 12, 1918
- ³ Nebraska Marriages 1855-1995 Marriage, Pierce, Nebraska, US, Nebraska State Historical Society, Lincoln; FHL microfilm 2,021,735.; Berton Cooley and Luella Miller, 03 Jan 1903
- ⁴ Social Security Administration; Washington D.C., USA; Social Security Death Index, Master File; exact birth date, year and month of death; SSN 523-42-8682
- ⁵ DBC interview of Carrie Louella Miller in 1968, information from Miller Bible; current Bible location, unknown
- ⁶ State of Colorado certified copy of death record

STATE OF COLORADO
OFFICE OF THE LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFIED COPY OF DEATH RECORD

1. PLACE OF BIRTH Washington		2. STATE, TERRITORY OR COUNTRY OF BIRTH Colorado		3. PLACE OF BIRTH (If not as above) Washington	
4. CITY, TOWN OR VILLAGE Akron		5. COUNTY, TERRITORY OR COUNTRY Akron		6. MARITAL STATUS Married	
7. PLACE OF DEATH (Name of Hospital, etc.) Washington County Public Hospital		8. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS 110 Adams		9. IS DEATH A RESULT OF INFLUENZA? No	
10. SEX Male		11. RACE White		12. DATE OF BIRTH August 10, 1873	
13. OCCUPATION Editor & Publisher		14. TRADE, BUSINESS OR PROFESSION Newspaper		15. PLACE OF BIRTH (If not as above) Hedrogor, Iowa	
16. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Robert Hand Cooley		17. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Estrella Owen		18. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Mrs. Lou Cooley	
19. CAUSE OF DEATH Generalized Sepsis		20. DURATION OF ILLNESS 24 hours		21. TIME OF DEATH 11:30 P.M.	
22. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Park B. Kellner, M.D.		23. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Akron, Colorado		24. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Akron, Colorado	
25. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Dorrie G. Gordon		26. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Akron, Colorado		27. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Akron, Colorado	

I CERTIFY THAT I HOLD THE OFFICE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS IN Washington County, Colorado, and that the information herein is a true and correct copy of the original record on file in my office.

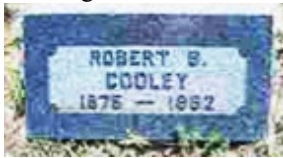
WITNESSED MY HAND AND SEAL OF LOCAL REGISTRAR ON THIS 29th DAY OF December, 1969.

Thomas M. Howard
LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS

FILE NO. 30 DISTRICT NO. 237
Akron, Washington County, Colorado

Colorado State Department of Public Health
AD 40-104 (7-15-65)

- ⁷ Findagrave Memorial ID 11070588



- ⁸ State of Colorado certified copy of death record

STATE OF COLORADO
CERTIFICATE OF VITAL RECORD

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. NAME OF DECEASED COOLEY, ESTRELLA	2. SEX Female	3. DATE OF BIRTH August 10, 1873
4. PLACE OF BIRTH Washington	5. COUNTY, TERRITORY OR COUNTRY OF BIRTH Washington	6. PLACE OF BIRTH (If not as above) Washington
7. DATE OF DEATH December 11, 1962	8. PLACE OF DEATH Washington County Public Nursing Home	9. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS 110 Adams
10. SEX Male	11. RACE White	12. DATE OF BIRTH October 12, 1896
13. OCCUPATION Editor & Publisher	14. TRADE, BUSINESS OR PROFESSION Newspaper	15. PLACE OF BIRTH (If not as above) Hedrogor, Iowa
16. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Robert Hand Cooley	17. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Estrella Owen	18. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Mrs. Lou Cooley
19. CAUSE OF DEATH Myocardial infarction	20. DURATION OF ILLNESS 24 hours	21. TIME OF DEATH 11:30 P.M.
22. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Park B. Kellner, M.D.	23. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Akron, Colorado	24. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Akron, Colorado
25. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Dorrie G. Gordon	26. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Akron, Colorado	27. NAME OF DEATH CITY LIGHTS Akron, Colorado

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FILE NO. 30 DISTRICT NO. 237
Akron, Washington County, Colorado

Colorado State Department of Public Health
AD 40-104 (7-15-65)

⁹ Findagrave Memorial ID 11070744



¹⁰ Brief autobiography by Dale Cooley

¹¹ State of Colorado Marriage license #1560

¹² U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007; SSN 524381003 for birth and death dates. For birthplace, Alice Mildred Skinner biography by Orville Dale Cooley

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Find a Grave Memorial ID 78083100

¹⁵ California Death Index Place: Riverside; Date: 12 May 1994; SSN 523420018

¹⁶ Find a Grave Memorial ID 67050235

¹⁷ There are no official documents for this child. Most of this data came from an interview the author had with his Grandma Lou Miller in 1968. She had a Miller-Cooley Bible with genealogical data but the present location of this Bible is unknown. I also had an interview with Orville Dale Cooley in 1993. Dale wrote extensively about the history of this Cooley family and said the greatest loss in his life was the death of his younger brother, Lyle.

¹⁸ Memorial ID 114415197 managed by Daniel B Cooley



¹⁹ See endnote 15 for Carlyle Berton. Same for Leo but there is even less about Leo. Dale knew very little about him and Grandma really didn't want to talk about him.

²⁰ State of Colorado Birth Record 236 #19 nr 91

²¹ State of Colorado, County of Washington Marriage License nr 2129

²² State of Colorado birth certificate 237 #8 nr 90

²³ State of Colorado, Certificate of Death, State File nr 87001682

²⁴ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70816564/margaret-may-cooley>

²⁵ State of Colorado Death certificate, Dist. 237-25

²⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70816562/clifford-coyne-cooley>

²⁷ World War II Draft Registration Card, Serial nr 642, Order nr 98

²⁸ Idaho County Marriage Records, 1864-1967; Marriage License and Certificate No. 27, No. 11593, Instrument No. 178204

²⁹ Idaho, U.S., Birth Records, 1861-1919, Stillbirth Index, 1905-1967; File nr 35672; additional number 556-030-014-799; Given name spelled Eleanore; Registration district 2006/7

³⁰ US Social Security Death Index 1935-2014; SSN 527606403

³¹ Findagrave Memorial ID 31775908



³² Social Security Administration; Washington D.C., USA; Social Security Death Index, Master File SSN 521123093; last residence 83709, Boise, Ada, Idaho

³³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/31775901/robert-miller-cooley>



³⁴ This child was stillborn and was buried in the Otis Cemetery. A short news item said: A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Cooley, Sunday, January 23 [1921]. The little body was laid to rest in the Otis Cemetery the same afternoon, a prayer being offered by Rev. J.S. Dapp at the home and a short service at the cemetery. - *Otis Independent*, Thursday, January 27, 1921. Lou Miller Cooley later referred to her as “Gwen” but this child was not named at birth



³⁵ Herbert was a twin thus Robert Cooley’s World War II Draft Registration Card (Serial nr 373; Order nr A397; Date of Registration Sept 12, 1918) is sufficient birth information

³⁶ Nebraska Marriage Records, 1855-1908 (Ancestry.com), Knox County Marriage Records p356, Marriage License nr 2065

³⁷ Census Returns of England and Wales, Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK (TNA): Public Record Office (PRO). Data imaged from the National Archives, London, England. Enumerated as “Lizzie Holliday”

³⁸ Obituary, *Plainview Republican*, Plainview, Nebraska, 9 Jan 1908

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ Findagrave Memorial ID 114423223

⁴¹ *Yankton Press and Dakotan*, Yankton, South Dakota, 4 Nov 1914

⁴² World War II Draft Card, serial number 238, order number 377

⁴³ State of Colorado Marriage Record Report nr 2058; marriage License 7/19/1935, married by Minister JS Dapp 7/20/1935

⁴⁴ U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007, Claim Date: 10 Apr 1972; SSN 524627824; Birth 29 Jul 1907; Death 6 Dec 1990; Father Leonard Skinner; Mother, Ethel Powell

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Findagrave Memorial ID 78083099

⁴⁷ The *Denver Post* 3/4/1972, p12

⁴⁸ Findagrave Memorial ID 78083101

⁴⁹ World War-II Draft Registration Card Serial nr 604, Order nr 325

⁵⁰ State of Colorado Marriage Record Report nr 16621 date May 25 -29; John W Bailey performed ceremony

⁵¹ Obituary, *Akron News Reporter*, May 11, 1995

⁵² Social Security Application and Claims, SSN 523665503; Death Cert SSA-721 (Yeamans and Gordon, Akron Colo)

⁵³ Findagrave Memorial ID 70816566

⁵⁴ Social Security Death Index SSN 523-09-7647; birth date 7 Dec '907, death date 3 Nov 1992

⁵⁵ Findagrave Memorial ID 70816565

⁵⁶ Date reference, their fourth child, Glenn Syren Cooley, was born in Plainview 14 Jul 1894.

⁵⁷ Date reference, Samuel and Mary’s youngest child, Letta May Miller was born in Plainview 18 Mar 1896.

⁵⁸ The village of McLean got its start in 1888 as a Pierce County rural school. A year later a Mr. Morrow learned a railroad was to go through the area so he made a speculative purchase of the land on which the school sat and named the plot “Murrowville”. The Sioux City-O’Neill, and Western Short Line from Sioux City, Iowa to O’Neill, Nebraska was built in 1890. A grain elevator was built in Murrowville the same year by a Mr. Sharron who promptly re-named the town “Sharron”. Shortly the name was again changed to McLean after a section foreman of the railroad. Growth of the town was spotty through the Panic of 1893 until 1899 when a lumber yard, saloon, hotel, and grocery store were built. Sporadic growth continued through the first half of the 20th century. The population was 36 in the 2010 census.

⁵⁹ *The Story of the R.B. Cooley Family in Washington County* by Dale Cooley

⁶⁰ [About the Homestead Act of 1862](#)

⁶¹ [Teachers Employed in Kit Carson County November 14, 1910](#) “Dist No 14, Mr. Bert Cooley”

⁶² *Otis, the People, the Places, and the Newspaper* by Dale Cooley, The Otis Independent, v70# 14

⁶³ Lacking skill or training, amateur (a jackleg carpenter) - *Merriam-Webster*

⁶⁴ From some later edition numbers (e.g. vol 30, no 51 dated 18 Dec 1941) I have determined that first edition of the *Otis Independent* occurred in the range Dec 25, 1910 to Jan 5, 1911. Since most accounts say it began publication in 1911 I will summarily establish 5 Jan 1911 (a Thursday, the usual publication day of a weekly newspaper) as the date of the first edition, v1#1.

⁶⁵ *Wray Rattler* Nov 23 1916

⁶⁶ This was probably the Otis Hotel, a two-story building on the west side of Washington St. between 1st Ave (County Hwy 54 then US 34 after 1939) and Railroad St that was built in 1920. It was owned and operated by John R. Losey. It is still there but abandoned.

⁶⁷ *Otis, the People, the Places, and the Newspaper* by Dale Cooley, The Otis Independent, v70#14

⁶⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akron_News-Reporter

⁶⁹ Findagrave Memorial ID 11070588

⁷⁰ Findagrave Memorial ID 11070744

⁷¹ The population of Beaman (in 2020) is approximately 183 and the approximate number of families is 87. The amount of land area in Beaman is 0.477 sq. kilometers and the amount of surface water is 0.02 sq. kilometers. The distance to the Iowa state capital, Des Moines, is 61 statute miles. Beaman is positioned 42.22 degrees north of the equator and 92.82 degrees west of the prime meridian.

⁷² Carrie Louella Miller from Miller Family Bible (current location unknown), interviewed by Daniel Berton Cooley 1968

⁷³ Letta May Miller was born in Plainview, Pierce Co, Nebraska 18 Mar 1896

⁷⁴ Glenn Syren Cooley was born in Plainview, Pierce Co, Nebraska on 14 Jul 1894

⁷⁵ *The Story of the R.B. Cooley Family in Washington County* by Dale Cooley

⁷⁶ Dale Cooley paper entitled "*The Story of the RB Cooley Family in Washington County*"

⁷⁷ Ibid

⁷⁸ The **Order of the Eastern Star** is a Freemasonry-related fraternal organization open to both men and women. It was established in 1850 by Boston, Massachusetts lawyer and educator Rob Morris, a former Freemason official. The order is based on teachings from the Bible, but is open to people of all religious beliefs. It has approximately 10,000 chapters in twenty countries and approximately 500,000 members under its General Grand Chapter.

Members of the Order are aged 18 and older; men must be Master Masons and women must have specific relationships with Masons. Originally, a woman would have to be the daughter, widow, wife, sister, or mother of a master Mason, but the Order now allows other relatives as well as allowing Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, Members of the Organization of Triangle (NY only) and members of the Constellation of Junior Stars (NY only) to become members when of age.

The Order was created by Rob Morris in 1850 when, while confined by illness, he set down the principles of the order in his Rosary of the Eastern Star. By 1855, he had organized a "Supreme Constellation" in New York, which chartered chapters throughout the United States.

In 1866, Dr. Morris started working with Robert Macoy, and handed the Order over to him while Morris was traveling in the Holy Land. Macoy organized the current system of Chapters, and modified Dr. Morris' Rosary into a Ritual.

On December 1, 1874, Queen Esther Chapter No. 1 became the first Prince Hall Affiliate chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star when it was established in Washington, D.C. by Thornton Andrew Jackson.

The "General Grand Chapter" was formed in Indianapolis, Indiana on November 6, 1876. Committees formed at that time created the Ritual of the Order of the Eastern Star in more or less its current form.

Traditionally, a woman who is elected Associate Conductress will the following year be elected to Conductress, then the next year Associate Matron, and the next year Worthy Matron. A man elected Associate Patron will usually the next year be elected Worthy Patron. Usually the woman who is elected to become Associate Matron will let it be known who she wishes to be her Associate Patron, so the next year they will both go to the East together as Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron. There is no male counterpart to the Conductress and Associate Conductress. Only women are allowed to be Matrons, Conductresses, and the Star Points (Adah, Ruth, etc.) and only men can be Patrons.

⁷⁹ **Fortnightly clubs** were women's organizations with the object of the group being "mental culture and mutual helpfulness". Each meeting began with the reciting of a short prayer comprising an invocation, petition, and conclusion called the "Collect".

Mary Stewart wrote the Collect in 1904 as a member of the Longmont (Colorado) Fortnightly Club. It was written to instill a sense of unity among women working together with wide interests and important goals. The meeting had as its basis a general topic, e.g. Fine Arts, Civil Rights, Education, Conservation, etc. and for each general topic one member developed a specific program, e.g. for Fine Arts, "What Makes a Masterpiece" or for Conservation, "What's Happening to Our Land?"

The original Fortnightly Club was established [in Columbia, Mo.] in October 1892 for [University of Missouri, Columbia] faculty wives for the dual purpose of providing "congenial associations for the wives of faculty members" and "building community resources and good will at the University."

Fortnightly clubs were affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). The GFWC had its origins in 1890, when Sorosis, a women's literary club founded by journalist Jane Cunningham Croly, issued invitations to other women's literary clubs to form an organization with the goal of uniting "women's clubs to enhance community service by volunteers throughout the world."